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Fifty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 71 (d)
General and complete disarmament

Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/38 A of 9 December 1997,

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Reaffirming its determination to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, which kill or maim hundreds of people every week, mostly innocent and defenceless civilians and especially children, obstruct economic development and reconstruction, inhibit the repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons, and have other severe consequences for years after emplacement,

Believing it necessary to do the utmost to contribute in an efficient and coordinated manner to facing the challenge of removing anti-personnel mines placed throughout the world, and to assure their destruction,

Wishing to do the utmost in assuring assistance for the care and rehabilitation, including the social and economic reintegration of mine victims,

Recalling the conclusion of negotiations in September 1997 in Oslo of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and the opening for signature of the Convention in Ottawa, 3–4 December 1997, and thereafter, at United Nations Headquarters in New York until its entry into force,

Welcoming the addition of new States signatories to the Convention since its opening for signature, the rapid ratification by many signatories, and the early achievement of the fortieth ratification of the Convention on 16 September 1998 which, according to the provisions of article 17 of the Convention, will result in the entry into force of the Convention on 1 March 1999,

Emphasizing the desirability of attracting the adherence of all States to the Convention, and determined to work strenuously towards the promotion of its universalization,

1. *Invites* all States that have not yet done so to sign, or, after entry-into-force, to accede to, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction;

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention without delay subsequent to their signature;

3. *Renews its call upon* all States to contribute towards the full realization and effective implementation of the Convention to advance the care and rehabilitation, and the social and economic reintegration of mine victims, and mine awareness programmes, and the removal of anti-personnel mines placed throughout the world and the assurance of their destruction;

4. *Welcomes* the generous offer of the Government of Mozambique to act as host for the First Meeting of the States Parties;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with article 11(2) of the Convention, to undertake the preparations necessary to convene the First Meeting of the States Parties, to take place in Maputo during the week of 3 May 1999;

6. *Invites* all States Parties to the First Meeting of the States Parties and, according to article 11(4) of the Convention, States not parties to this Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations to attend this meeting as observers in accordance with the agreed Rules of Procedure.

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Agenda item 71 (q)
General and complete disarmament

Armenia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey: draft resolution

Regional disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/58 P of 4 December 1990, 46/36 I of 6 December 1991, 47/52 J of 9 December 1992, 48/75 I of 16 December 1993, 49/75 N of 15 December 1994, 50/70 K of 12 December 1995, 51/45 K of 10 December 1996, and 52/38 P of 9 December 1997, on regional disarmament,

Believing that the efforts of the international community to move towards the ideal of general and complete disarmament are guided by the inherent human desire for genuine peace and security, the elimination of the danger of war and the release of economic, intellectual and other resources for peaceful pursuits,

Affirming the abiding commitment of all States to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations in the conduct of their international relations,

Noting that essential guidelines for progress towards general and complete disarmament were adopted at the tenth special session of the General Assembly,

Taking note of the guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1993 substantive session,

Welcoming the prospects of genuine progress in the field of disarmament engendered in recent years as a result of negotiations between the two super-Powers,

Taking note of the recent proposals for disarmament at the regional and subregional levels,

Recognizing the importance of confidence-building measures for regional and international peace and security,

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Convinced that endeavours by countries to promote regional disarmament, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region and in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, would enhance the security of all States and would thus contribute to international peace and security by reducing the risk of regional conflicts,

1. *Stresses* that sustained efforts are needed, within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament and under the umbrella of the United Nations, to make progress on the entire range of disarmament issues;

2. *Affirms* that global and regional approaches to disarmament complement each other and should therefore be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security;

3. *Calls upon* States to conclude agreements, wherever possible, for nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels;

4. *Welcomes* the initiatives towards disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and security undertaken by some countries at the regional and subregional levels;

5. *Supports and encourages* efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease regional tensions and to further disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation measures at the regional and subregional levels;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Regional disarmament".

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Fifty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 71 (r)
General and complete disarmament: conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels

Bangladesh, Czech Republic, Italy, Mexico, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: draft resolution

Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/75 J of 16 December 1993, 49/75 O of 15 December 1994, 50/70 L of 12 December 1995, 51/45 Q of 10 December 1996, and 52/38 Q of 9 December 1997,

Recognizing the crucial role of conventional arms control in promoting regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that conventional arms control needs to be pursued primarily in the regional and subregional contexts since most threats to peace and security in the post-cold-war era arise mainly among States located in the same region or subregion,

Aware that the preservation of a balance in the defence capabilities of States at the lowest level of armaments would contribute to peace and stability and should be a prime objective of conventional arms control,

Desirous of promoting agreements to strengthen regional peace and security at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces,

Noting with particular interest the initiatives taken in this regard in different regions of the world, in particular the commencement of consultations among a number of Latin American countries and the proposals for conventional arms control made in the context of South Asia, and recognizing, in the context of this subject, the relevance and value of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which is a cornerstone of European security,

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Believing that militarily significant States and States with larger military capabilities have a special responsibility in promoting such agreements for regional security,

Believing also that an important objective of conventional arms control in regions of tension should be to prevent the possibility of military attack launched by surprise and to avoid aggression,

1. *Decides* to give urgent consideration to the issues involved in conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament, as a first step, to consider the formulation of principles that can serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control, and looks forward to a report of the Conference on this subject;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels".

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Fifty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 69
Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

Bangladesh, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Viet Nam: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the need to allay the legitimate concern of the States of the world with regard to ensuring lasting security for their peoples,

Convinced that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

Welcoming the progress achieved in recent years in both nuclear and conventional disarmament,

Noting that, despite recent progress in the field of nuclear disarmament, further efforts are necessary towards the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Convinced that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

Determined strictly to abide by the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or threat of force,

Recognizing that the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of non-nuclear-weapon States need to be safeguarded against the use or threat of use of force, including the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Considering that, until nuclear disarmament is achieved on a universal basis, it is imperative for the international community to develop effective measures and arrangements to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from any quarter,

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Recognizing that effective measures and arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons can contribute positively to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind paragraph 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which it urged the nuclear-weapon States to pursue efforts to conclude, as appropriate, effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and desirous of promoting the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Document,

Recalling the relevant parts of the special report of the Committee on Disarmament submitted to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, and of the special report of the Conference on Disarmament submitted to the Assembly at its fifteenth special session, the third special session devoted to disarmament, as well as the report of the Conference on its 1992 session,

Recalling also paragraph 12 of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/46 of 3 December 1980, which states, *inter alia*, that all efforts should be exerted by the Committee on Disarmament urgently to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting the in-depth negotiations undertaken in the Conference on Disarmament and its Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons, with a view to reaching agreement on this item,

Taking note of the proposals submitted under that item in that Conference on Disarmament, including the drafts of an international convention,

Taking note also of the relevant decision of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 2–3 September 1998 as well as the relevant recommendations of the Organization of the Islamic Conference,

Taking note further of the unilateral declarations made by all the nuclear-weapon States on their policies of non-use or non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against the non-nuclear-weapon States,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as the difficulties pointed out in evolving a common approach acceptable to all,

Noting also the greater willingness to overcome the difficulties encountered in previous years, as manifested in the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on the issue by the Conference on Disarmament during the 1998 session and the recommendation of the Conference to establish the Ad Hoc Committee at the beginning of its 1999 session,

Taking note of Security Council resolution 984 (1995) of 11 April 1995 and the views expressed on it,

Recalling its relevant resolutions adopted in previous years, in particular resolutions 45/54 of 4 December 1990, 46/32 of 6 December 1991, 47/50 of 9 December 1992, 48/73

of 16 December 1993, 49/73 of 15 December 1994, 50/68 of 12 December 1995, 51/43 of 10 December 1996, and 52/36 of 23 December 1997,

1. *Reaffirms* the urgent need to reach an early agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* that in the Conference on Disarmament there is no objection, in principle, to the idea of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, although the difficulties as regards evolving a common approach acceptable to all have also been pointed out;

3. *Appeals* to all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to work actively towards an early agreement on a common approach and, in particular, on a common formula that could be included in an international instrument of a legally binding character;

4. *Recommends* that further intensive efforts should be devoted to the search for such a common approach or common formula and that the various alternative approaches, including, in particular, those considered in the Conference on Disarmament, should be further explored in order to overcome the difficulties;

5. *Recommends also* that the Conference on Disarmament should actively continue intensive negotiations with a view to reaching early agreement and concluding effective international arrangements to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, taking into account the widespread support for the conclusion of an international convention and giving consideration to any other proposals designed to secure the same objective;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".

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Fifty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 71 (o)
General and complete disarmament

Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Suriname, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/45 B of 10 December 1996 and 52/38 N of 9 December 1997,

Determined to continue to contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to the process of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, with a view to strengthening international peace and security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling also the provisions on nuclear-weapon-free zones of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, as well as of the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Stressing the importance of the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, and Pelindaba, establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the Antarctic Treaty, to, *inter alia*, the ultimate objective of achieving a world entirely free of nuclear weapons, and

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underlining also the value of enhancing cooperation among the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaty members by means of mechanisms such as joint meetings of States parties, signatories and observers to those treaties,

Recalling further the applicable principles and rules of international law relating to the freedom of the high seas and the rights of passage through maritime space, including those of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

1. *Welcomes* the continued contribution that the Antarctic Treaty and the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba are making towards freeing the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons;

2. *Calls* for the ratification of the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba by all regional States, and calls upon all concerned States to continue to work together in order to facilitate adherence to the protocols to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties by all relevant States that have not yet done so;

3. *Welcomes* the steps taken to conclude further nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned and calls upon all States to consider all relevant proposals, including those reflected in its resolutions on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Middle East and South Asia;

4. *Reiterates* the important role nuclear-weapon-free zones in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and in extending the areas of the world that are nuclear-weapon-free, and, with particular reference to the responsibilities of the nuclear-weapon States, calls upon all States to support the process of nuclear disarmament, with the ultimate goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons;

5. *Calls upon* the States parties and signatories to the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba, in order to pursue the common goals envisaged in those treaties and to promote the nuclear-weapon-free status of the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas, to explore and implement further ways and means of cooperation among themselves and their treaty agencies;

6. *Encourages* the competent authorities of nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties to provide assistance to the States parties and signatories to such treaties so as to facilitate the accomplishment of these goals;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "The nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas".

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Fifty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 71 (t)
General and complete disarmament

Canada and Poland: draft resolution

Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons, in particular resolution 52/38 T of 9 December 1997, adopted without a vote, in which it welcomed entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,

Determined to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that since the adoption of resolution 52/38 T of 9 December 1997 (...) additional States have ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, bringing the total Member States of the Organization to (...),

1. *Noting with appreciation* the ongoing work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to achieve the object and purpose of the Convention, to ensure the full implementation of its provisions, including those for international verification of compliance with it, and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among States Parties;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in verifying compliance with all the provisions of the Convention as well as promoting timely and efficient accomplishment of all its objectives;

3. *Stresses* the vital importance of full and effective implementation of, and compliance with, all provisions of the Convention;

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4. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention to meet in full and timely their obligations under the Convention and to support the Organization in its implementation activities;

5. *Emphasizes* the necessity of universal adherence to the Convention, and calls upon all States that have not yet done so to become States parties to the Convention without delay;

6. *Stresses* the importance to the Convention that all possessors of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities or chemical weapons development facilities, including previously declared possessor States, should be among the States parties to the Convention, and welcomes progress to that end;

7. *Welcomes* the emerging cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and efforts for the conclusion of a relationship agreement between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction".

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Fifty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 71 (e)
General and complete disarmament

Egypt, Jordan, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan and Swaziland: draft resolution

Transparency in armaments

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, Member States have undertaken to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources,

Considering the urgent need to accelerate efforts towards general and complete disarmament with a view to maintaining regional and international peace and security in a world free from the scourge of war and the burden of all types of armaments,

Considering also that openness and transparency relating to all types of armaments would contribute greatly to confidence-building and security among States,

Recognizing that an enhanced level of transparency relating to both conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction and transfers of equipment and technologies directly related to the development and manufacture of such weapons, as well as to high technology with military applications, would promote stability, strengthen regional and international peace and security and accelerate efforts towards general and complete disarmament,

Recognizing also that the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, in its current form, constitutes an important first step towards the promotion of transparency in military matters,

Convinced that the principle of transparency should also apply to all weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and to transfers of equipment and technology directly related to the development and manufacture of such weapons, as well as to high technology with military applications,

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Aware of the need to foster international efforts in this direction through, *inter alia*, the constant review of the operation of the Register with a view to its further development,

Stressing the need to achieve universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention, with a view to realizing the goal of the total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction,

Recalling its earlier resolutions on transparency in armaments,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on transparency in armaments;

2. *Recalls* the reports of the group of governmental experts which convened in 1994 and 1997 to consider the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, and the views expressed and proposals presented therein;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving greater progress in the further development of the Register in order that it may truly enhance confidence-building and security among States and accelerate efforts towards attainment of the goal of general and complete disarmament, and to that end *urges* Member States to submit their views to the Secretary-General concerning the following matters with a view to their consideration by the Group of governmental experts to be convened in the year 2000:

(a) The early expansion of the scope of the Register to include military holdings and procurement through national production;

(b) The elaboration of practical means for the further development of the Register in order to increase transparency related to weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and to transfers of equipment and technology directly related to the development and manufacture of such weapons, as well as to high technology with military applications;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Transparency in armaments".

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Fifty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 70
Prevention of an arms race in outer space

Chile, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Sudan: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Reaffirming the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

Reaffirming also provisions of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,

Recalling the obligation of all States to observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the use or threat of use of force in their international relations, including in their space activities,

Reaffirming paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, in which it is stated that in order to prevent an arms race in outer space further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this issue and taking note of the proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session and at its regular sessions, and of the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament,

Recognizing that prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

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Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space,

Considering that wide participation in the legal regime applicable to outer space could contribute to enhancing its effectiveness,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, taking into account its previous efforts since its establishment in 1985 and seeking to enhance its functioning in qualitative terms, continued the examination and identification of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and that this contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,

Noting also that there were no objections in principle in the Conference on Disarmament during its 1997 session to the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, subject to re-examination of the mandate contained in the decision of the Conference on Disarmament of 13 February 1992,

Emphasizing the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space, and hoping that concrete results will emerge from those efforts as soon as possible,

Convinced that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space,

Stressing that the growing use of outer space increases the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community,

Recalling in this context its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990, 47/51 of 9 December 1992 and 48/74 A of 16 December 1993, in which, *inter alia* , it reaffirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Conscious of the benefits of confidence- and security-building measures in the military field,

Recognizing that negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remain a priority task of the Ad Hoc Committee and that the concrete proposals on confidence-building measures could form an integral part of such agreements,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space, and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective, in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;

2. *Reaffirms its recognition*, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that this legal regime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance its effectiveness, and that it is important strictly to comply with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;

3. *Emphasizes* the necessity of further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space;

4. *Calls upon* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation;

5. *Reiterates* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

6. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to finalize the examination of the mandate contained in its decision of 13 February 1992, with a view to updating it as appropriate, thus providing for the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee during the 1999 session of the Conference on Disarmament;

7. *Recognizes*, in this respect, the growing convergence of views on the elaboration of measures designed to strengthen transparency, confidence and security in the peaceful uses of outer space;

8. *Urges* States conducting activities in outer space, as well as States interested in conducting such activities, to keep the Conference on Disarmament informed of the progress of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the matter, if any, so as to facilitate its work;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

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Agenda item 71
General and complete disarmament

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Togo, United States of America and Uruguay: draft resolution

Illicit traffic in small arms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 G on the Illicit Circulation of Small Arms and its resolution 51/45 F on Measures to Curb the Illicit Transfer and Use of Conventional Weapons,

Bearing in mind its resolution 52/38 J on Small Arms,

Expressing its appreciation for the Secretary-General's Reports in pursuance of resolution 51/45 F on Measures to Curb the Illicit Transfer and Use of Conventional Weapons (A/52/229) and resolution 52/38 C on Assistance to States for Curbing the Illicit traffic in Small Arms (A/53/207),

Expressing also its appreciation for the Secretary-General's Report of 13 April 1998 on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa, and in this context takes note of the ongoing consideration by the Security Council of the issue on illicit arms flows to and in Africa,

Welcoming the initiatives by member States of the ECOWAS to conclude their agreement on a moratorium on the manufacture, import and export of small arms and light weapons,

Welcoming also the entry into force of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials,

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Welcoming further the decision on the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons taken at the 34th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity held in Burkina Faso during June 1998,

Stressing the importance of elaborating an international convention against transnational organized crime, including a protocol to combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, in the framework of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Underlining the importance of increased cooperation both among the relevant intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations, and within the United Nations Secretariat, in particular with regard to the activities of the Centre on International Crime Prevention, the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA), in ongoing initiatives related to illicit trafficking in small arms,

Recognizing the human suffering caused by illicit trafficking in small arms and that Governments bear the responsibility to intensify their efforts by developing an understanding of the issues and practical ways of addressing the problem,

Bearing in mind the interface between violence, criminality, drug trafficking, terrorism and illicit trafficking in small arms,

1. *Decides* to request the Secretary-General to hold broad-based consultations, within existing financial resources, taking into account the ongoing work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, with Member States, interested regional and subregional organizations, international agencies, and experts in the field on:

(a) The magnitude and scope of the phenomenon of illicit trafficking in small arms;

(b) Possible measures to combat illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms, including those suited to indigenous regional approaches; and

(c) The role of the United Nations in collecting, sharing and disseminating information on illicit trafficking in small arms;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the outcome of his consultations;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Illicit traffic in small arms".

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Fifty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 71
General and complete disarmament

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Peru Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay: revised draft resolution

Illicit traffic in small arms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 G on the Illicit Circulation of Small Arms and its resolution 51/45 F on Measures to Curb the Illicit Transfer and Use of Conventional Weapons,

Bearing in mind its resolution 52/38 J on Small Arms,

Expressing its appreciation for the Secretary-General's Reports in pursuance of resolution 51/45 F on Measures to Curb the Illicit Transfer and Use of Conventional Weapons (A/52/229) and resolution 52/38 C on Assistance to States for Curbing the Illicit traffic in Small Arms (A/53/207),

Expressing also its appreciation for the Secretary-General's Report of 13 April 1998 on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa, and in this context takes note of the ongoing consideration by the Security Council of the issue on illicit arms flows to and in Africa,

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Welcoming the initiatives by member States of the ECOWAS to conclude their agreement on a moratorium on the manufacture, import and export of small arms and light weapons,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials,

Welcoming the decision on the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons taken at the 34th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity held in Burkina Faso during June 1998,

Welcoming also the adoption of the European Union programme for preventing and combating illicit trafficking in conventional arms and the initiatives undertaken in its implementation,

Stressing the importance of ongoing efforts to elaborate an international convention against transnational organized crime, including a protocol to combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, in the framework of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Welcoming the Secretary-General's announcement on 14 August 1998 designating the Department for Disarmament Affairs as the focal point to coordinate all action on small arms within the United Nations system,

Underlining the importance of increased cooperation both among the relevant intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations, and within the United Nations Secretariat, in particular with regard to the activities of the Centre on International Crime Prevention, the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA), in ongoing initiatives related to illicit trafficking in small arms,

Recognizing the human suffering caused by illicit trafficking in small arms and that Governments bear the responsibility to intensify their efforts by developing an understanding of the issues and practical ways of addressing the problem,

Bearing in mind the interface between violence, criminality, drug trafficking, terrorism and illicit trafficking in small arms,

1. *Decides* to request the Secretary-General to hold broad-based consultations, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by Member States in a position to do so, taking into account the ongoing work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, with all Member States, interested regional and subregional organizations, international agencies, and experts in the field on:

(a) The magnitude and scope of the phenomenon of illicit trafficking in small arms;

(b) Possible measures to combat illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms, including those suited to indigenous regional approaches; and

(c) The role of the United Nations in collecting, collating, sharing and disseminating information on illicit trafficking in small arms;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the outcome of his consultations;

3. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so to provide the necessary assistance, bilaterally, regionally and through multilateral channels, such as the United Nations, in

support of the implementation of measures associated with combating illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Illicit traffic in small arms".

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General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 71
General and complete disarmament

Japan: draft resolution

Nuclear disarmament with a view to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 H of 15 December 1994, 50/70 C of 12 December 1995, 51/45 G of 10 December 1996 and 52/38 K of 9 December 1997,

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 1172 of 6 June 1998,

Looking forward to the early entry into force of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START II) and welcoming the Joint Statement on Parameters on Future Reduction of Nuclear Forces issued by President Clinton of the United States of America and President Yeltsin of the Russian Federation,

Welcoming efforts of other nuclear-weapon States to reduce their nuclear arsenals, most recently by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

Welcoming also the accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by Brazil,

Reaffirming the conviction that further advancement in nuclear disarmament will contribute to consolidating the international regime for nuclear non-proliferation ensuring international peace and security,

Welcoming further the decision of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to establish an ad hoc committee which shall negotiate on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator in 1995 and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of achieving the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and calls upon States not parties to the Treaty to accede to it without delay and without conditions;

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2. *Reaffirms* also the importance for all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to fulfil their obligations under the Treaty;

3. *Calls for* the determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons, and by all States of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control;

4. *Recognizes* that, in order to achieve the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, it is important and necessary to pursue such actions as reflected below:

– the early signature and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by all States with a view to its early entry into force, and cessation of nuclear tests pending its entry into force;

– the early conclusion of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator and the mandate contained therein;

– the commencement of multilateral discussions on possible steps that should follow a convention banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

– the early entry into force of START II and the early commencement and conclusion of negotiations for START III by the Russian Federation and the United States of America;

– further efforts by the five nuclear-weapon States to reduce their nuclear arsenals unilaterally, and the commencement, at an appropriate stage, of their negotiations for the reduction of nuclear weapons;

5. *Invites* the nuclear-weapon States to keep the Members of the United Nations duly informed of the progress or efforts made for nuclear disarmament;

6. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts in the dismantlement of nuclear weapons, and notes the importance of the safe and effective management of the resultant fissile materials;

7. *Calls upon* all States to redouble their efforts to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, *inter alia*, nuclear weapons, confirming and strengthening, if necessary, their policies not to export equipment, materials or technology that could contribute to those weapons;

8. *Also calls upon* all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to make their best efforts for the success of the next Review Conference, which will be held in the year 2000;

9. *Encourages* continued serious discussions on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament in appropriate forums.

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Fifty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 71 (e)
General and complete disarmament

Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft resolution

Transparency in armaments

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 of 9 December 1991, 47/52 L of 15 December 1992, 48/75 E of 16 December 1993, 49/75 C of 15 December 1994, 50/70 D of 12 December 1995, 51/45 H of 10 December 1996 and 52/38 R of 8 December 1997 entitled "Transparency in armaments",

Continuing to take the view that an enhanced level of transparency in armaments contributes greatly to confidence-building and security among States and that the establishment of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms constitutes an important step forward in the promotion of transparency in military matters,

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Welcoming the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the Register, which includes the returns of Member States for 1997,

Welcoming also the response of Member States to the request contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 46/36 L to provide data on their imports and exports of arms, as well as available background information regarding their military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies,

Stressing that the continuing operation of the Register and its further development should be reviewed in order to secure a Register which is capable of attracting the widest possible participation,

1. *Reaffirms* its determination to ensure the effective operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms as provided for in paragraphs 7, 8, 9 and 10 of resolution 46/36 L;

2. *Calls upon* Member States, with a view to achieving universal participation, to provide to the Secretary-General by 31 May annually the requested data and information for the Register, including nil reports if appropriate, on the basis of resolutions 46/36 L and 47/52 L and the recommendations contained in paragraph 64 of the 1997 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development;

3. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so, pending further development of the Register, to provide additional information on procurement from national production and military holdings and to make use of the "Remarks" column in the standardized reporting form to provide additional information such as types and models;

4. *Reaffirms* its decision, with a view to further development of the Register, to keep the scope of and participation in the Register under review, and to this end:

(a) *Recalls* its request to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with their views on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and on transparency measures related to weapons of mass destruction;

(b) *Recalls* its request to the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts to be convened in 2000, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, to prepare a report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, taking into account work of the Conference on Disarmament, the views expressed by Member States and his reports on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, with a view to a decision at its fifty-fifth session;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient resources are made available for the Secretariat to operate and maintain the Register;

6. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to consider continuing its work undertaken in the field of transparency in armaments;

7. *Reiterates* its call upon all Member States to cooperate at the regional and subregional levels, taking fully into account the specific conditions prevailing in the region or subregion, with a view to enhancing and coordinating international efforts aimed at increased openness and transparency in armaments;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on progress made in implementing the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Transparency in armaments".

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Fifty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 64
Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States

Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/55 of 10 December 1996,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that the observance of the Charter and relevant treaties and other relevant principles and provisions of international law is essential for the strengthening of international peace and security,

Considering the emergence of new opportunities for building a peaceful world,

Mindful of the obligations of all States under the Charter, *inter alia*, to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State and to develop friendly relations among nations, and to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, including rights for persons belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities,

Deeply concerned that situations which may threaten international peace and security persist in spite of the efforts of the United Nations to put an end to them and to prevent such situations in the future,

Convinced of the necessity to enhance the capacity of the United Nations system to prevent the outbreak of conflicts,

Stressing the importance of the activities of the international organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of American States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the

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Council of Europe, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, with the aim of preventing the violent disintegration of States, of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for development,

Considering that the violent disintegration of States can pose a threat to international peace and security,

Noting that the vast majority of violent conflicts at present are conflicts within States,

Affirming the need for United Nations measures to help prevent the violent disintegration of States, thereby enhancing the maintenance of international peace and security and economic and social advancement of all peoples,

1. *Calls upon* all States, the relevant international organizations and competent organs of the United Nations to continue to undertake measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations as appropriate to eliminate threats to international peace and security and to help prevent conflicts which can lead to the violent disintegration of States;

2. *Stresses* the importance of good-neighbourliness and the development of friendly relations among States to the solution of problems among States, to prevent the violent disintegration of States and to promote international cooperation in accordance with the Charter;

3. *Calls upon* all States to solve their disputes with other States by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter;

4. *Affirms* the need for strict compliance with the principle of the inviolability of international borders;

5. *Affirms also* the need for strict compliance with the principle of the territorial integrity of any State;

6. *Stresses* the importance of regional efforts aimed to prevent bilateral conflicts endangering the maintenance of the international peace and security;

7. *Requests* all States and the relevant international organizations to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "The maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States".

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General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 71 (p)
General and complete disarmament: follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*

Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Samoa, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 K of 15 December 1994, 51/45 M of 10 December 1996, and 52/38 O of 9 December 1997,

Convinced that the continuing existence of nuclear weapons poses a threat to all humanity and that their use would have catastrophic consequences for all life on Earth, and recognizing that the only defence against a nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the certainty that they will never be produced again,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Mindful of the solemn obligations of States parties, undertaken in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, particularly to pursue negotiations

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in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,

Recalling the Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in particular the objective of determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons,

Recalling also the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996, and expressing its satisfaction at the increasing number of States that have signed and ratified the Treaty,

Recognizing with satisfaction that the Antarctic Treaty and the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba are gradually freeing the entire southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons,

Noting the efforts by the States possessing the largest inventories of nuclear weapons to reduce their stockpiles of such weapons through bilateral and unilateral agreements or arrangements, and calling for the intensification of such efforts to accelerate the significant reduction of nuclear-weapon arsenals,

Recognizing the need for a multilaterally negotiated and legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the threat or use of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming the central role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, and regretting the lack of progress in disarmament negotiations, particularly nuclear disarmament, in the Conference on Disarmament during its 1998 session,

Emphasizing the need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time,

Desiring to achieve the objective of a legally binding prohibition of the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, threat or use of nuclear weapons and their destruction under effective international control,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, issued on 8 July 1996,

Taking note of the relevant portions of the report of the Secretary-General (document A/53/208 dated 5 August 1998) relating to the objective on the implementation of resolution 52/38 O,

1. *Underlines once again* the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control;

2. *Calls once again upon* all States to immediately fulfil that obligation by commencing multilateral negotiations in 1999 leading to an early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination;

3. *Requests* all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they have taken on the implementation of the present resolution and nuclear disarmament, and requests the Secretary-General to apprise the General Assembly of that information at its fifty-fourth session;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*".

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General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 72 (c)
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

Bangladesh: Amendment to draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.5

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

1. In place of the seventh preambular paragraph, insert a new operative paragraph 3, *reading*:

> 3. *Welcomes* the idea of the creation of an educational and training programme for peace and disarmament in Asia and the Pacific for young people with different backgrounds, to be financed from voluntary contributions;

2. Replace operative paragraph 5 with a new operative paragraph 6, *reading*:

> 6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to move the operations of the Regional Centre, including the Office of the Director, to the region and to provide all necessary support, within the existing resources, to the Regional Centre in carrying out its programme of activities;

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General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 71 (n)
General and complete disarmament

Algeria, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

Nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 E of 15 December 1994 on a step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat and its resolutions 50/70 P of 12 December 1995, 51/45 O of 10 December 1996 and 52/38 L of 9 December 1997 on nuclear disarmament,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Bearing in mind that the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention and the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention have already established legal regimes on the complete prohibition of biological and chemical weapons, respectively, and determined to achieve a Nuclear Weapons Convention on the prohibition of the development, testing, production, stockpiling, loan, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, and to conclude such an international Convention at an early date,

Recognizing that there now exist conditions for the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind paragraph 50 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, calling for the

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urgent negotiations of agreements for the cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear-weapon systems, and for a comprehensive and phased programme with agreed time-frames, wherever feasible, for the progressive and balanced reductions of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, leading to their ultimate and complete elimination at the earliest possible time,

Reiterating the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly and by the international community,

Recognizing that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and any proposed treaty on fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices must constitute disarmament measures, and not only non-proliferation measures, and that these measures, together with an international legal instrument on the joint undertaking of no first use of nuclear weapons by the Nuclear Weapon States and on adequate security assurances of non-use and non-threat of use of these weapons for non-nuclear-weapon States, respectively, and an international convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons, should be integral measures in a programme leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, to which Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America are States parties,

Welcoming also the conclusion of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms by the Russian Federation and the United States of America and the ratification of that Treaty by the United States of America, and looking forward to the full implementation of the START I and START II Treaties by the State parties, and to further concrete steps for nuclear disarmament by all the Nuclear Weapon States,

Noting with appreciation the unilateral measures by the nuclear-weapon States for nuclear arms limitation, and encouraging them to undertake further such measures,

Recognizing the complementarity of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, and that bilateral negotiating can never replace multilateral negotiations in this respect,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and the multilateral efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to reach agreement on such an international convention at an early date,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, issued on 8 July 1996, and welcoming the unanimous reaffirmation by all Judges of the Court that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Mindful of paragraph 114 and other relevant recommendations in the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998, *calling upon the* Conference on Disarmament to establish, on a priority basis, an ad hoc committee to commence negotiations in 1998 on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time,

Bearing in mind the proposal of twenty-eight delegations to the Conference on Disarmament that are members of the Group of 21 for a programme of action for the

elimination of nuclear weapons, and expressing its conviction that this proposal will be an important input and will contribute to negotiations on this question in the Conference,

Commending the initiative by twenty-six delegations to the Conference on Disarmament that are members of the Group of 21 proposing a comprehensive mandate for an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament, which includes negotiations for, as a first step, a universal and legally binding multilateral agreement committing all States to the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, an agreement on further steps required in a phased programme with time-frames leading to the total elimination of these weapons and a convention on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices taking into account the report of the Special Coordinator on that item and the views relating to the scope of the treaty,

Taking note of the Declaration issued on 9 June 1998 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Slovenia, South Africa and Sweden, entitled "Towards a World Free of Nuclear Weapons: the Need for a New Agenda", supported and responded to by a number of States including some members of the Non-Aligned Movement,

1. *Recognizes* that, in view of recent political developments, the time is now opportune for all the Nuclear Weapon States to undertake effective disarmament measures with a view to the total elimination of these weapons with a specified framework of time;

2. *Recognizes also* that there is a genuine need to de-emphasize the role of nuclear weapons and to review and revise nuclear doctrines accordingly;

3. *Urges* the Nuclear Weapon States to stop immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems;

4. *Urges also* the Nuclear Weapon States, as an interim measures, to immediately de-alert and de-activate their nuclear weapons;

5. *Calls* for the conclusion, as a first step, of a universal and legally binding multilateral agreement committing all States to the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons;

6. *Reiterates* its call upon the Nuclear Weapon States to undertake the step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat and to carry out effective nuclear disarmament measures with a view to the total elimination of these weapons with a specified framework of time;

7. *Calls upon* the Nuclear Weapon States, pending the achievement of a total ban on nuclear weapons through a Nuclear Weapons Convention, to agree on an internationally and legally binding instrument of the joint undertaking not to be the first to use nuclear weapons; and calls upon all States to conclude an internationally and legally binding instrument on security assurances of non-use and threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States;

8. *Welcomes* the establishment in the Conference on Disarmament of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prohibition of the Production of Fissile Material for Nuclear Weapons and other Nuclear Explosive Devices, and urges for a speedy conclusion of a universal and non-discriminatory convention thereon; and also welcomes the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-nuclear Weapon States Against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons; and urges to pursue efforts in this regard as a matter of priority;

9. *Expresses its concern* at the continuing opposition by some Nuclear Weapon States to the establishment of an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament in the Conference on Disarmament, as called for in General Assembly resolution 52/38 L;

10. *Reiterates* its call upon the Conference on Disarmament to establish, on a priority basis, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament to commence negotiations early in 1999 on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time through a Nuclear Weapons Convention;

11. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to take into account in this regard the proposal of the twenty-eight delegations for a programme of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons, as well as the mandate for the ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament, proposed by the twenty-six delegations;

12. *Calls* for the convening of an international conference on nuclear disarmament at an early date with the objective of arriving at an agreement on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time through a Nuclear Weapons Convention;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Nuclear disarmament".

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General and complete disarmament

Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Ireland, Lesotho, Liberia, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Peru, Samoa, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft resolution

Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the need for a new agenda

The General Assembly,

Alarmed by the threat to the very survival of mankind posed by the existence of nuclear weapons,

Concerned at the prospect of the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons,

Concerned at the continued retention of the nuclear-weapons option by those three States that are nuclear-weapons capable and that have not acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT),

Believing that the proposition that nuclear weapons can be retained and never used accidentally or by decision – defies credibility, and that the only complete defence is the elimination of nuclear weapons and the assurance that they will never be produced again,

Concerned that the Nuclear-Weapon States have not fulfilled speedily and totally their commitment to the elimination of their nuclear weapons,

Concerned also that those three States that are nuclear-weapons capable and that have not acceded to the NPT have failed to renounce their nuclear-weapons option,

Bearing in mind that the overwhelming majority of States entered into legally-binding commitments not to receive, manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and that these undertakings have been made in the context of the corresponding legally-binding commitments by the nuclear-weapons States to the pursuit of nuclear disarmament,

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Recalling the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in its 1996 Advisory Opinion that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Stressing that the international community must not enter the third millennium with the prospect that the possession of nuclear weapons will be considered legitimate for the indefinite future and convinced that the present juncture provides a unique opportunity to proceed to prohibit and eradicate them for all time,

Recognizing that the total elimination of nuclear weapons will require measures to be taken firstly by those nuclear-weapon States that have the largest arsenals, and *stressing* that these States must be joined in a seamless process by those nuclear-weapon States with lesser arsenals in the near future,

Welcoming the achievements to date and the future promise of the START process and the possibility it offers for development as a plurilateral mechanism including all the nuclear-weapon States, for the practical dismantling and destruction of nuclear armaments undertaken in pursuit of the elimination of nuclear weapons,

Believing that there are a number of practical steps that the nuclear-weapon States can and should take immediately before the actual elimination of nuclear arsenals and the development of requisite verification regimes take place, and in this connection noting certain recent unilateral and other steps,

Welcoming the agreement recently reached in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) on the establishment of an Ad hoc Committee under Item 1 of its agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", to negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and considering that such a treaty must further underpin the process towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Emphasizing that for the elimination of nuclear weapons to be achieved, effective international cooperation to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons is vital and must be enhanced through, *inter alia*, the extension of international controls over all fissile material,

Emphasizing the importance of existing Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone treaties and of the signature and ratification of the relevant protocols to these treaties,

Noting the Joint Ministerial Declaration of 9 June 1998 and its call for a new international agenda to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world, through the pursuit, in parallel, of a series of mutually reinforcing measures at the bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral levels,

Calls upon the Nuclear-Weapon States to demonstrate an unequivocal commitment to the speedy and total elimination of their respective nuclear weapons and without delay to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to the elimination of these weapons, thereby fulfilling their obligations under Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT);

Calls upon the United States and the Russian Federation to bring START II into force without further delay and immediately thereafter to proceed with negotiations on START III with a view to its early conclusion;

Calls upon the Nuclear-Weapon States to undertake the necessary steps towards the seamless integration of all five Nuclear-Weapon States into the process leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons;

Calls upon the Nuclear-Weapon States to pursue vigorously the reduction of reliance on non-strategic nuclear weapons and negotiations on their elimination as an integral part of their overall nuclear disarmament activities;

Calls upon the Nuclear-Weapon States, as an interim measure, to proceed to the de-alerting of their nuclear weapons and in turn to the removal of nuclear warheads from delivery vehicles;

Urges the Nuclear-Weapon States to examine further interim measures, including the exploration by them of an undertaking not to be the first to use nuclear weapons;

Calls upon those three States that are nuclear-weapons capable and that have not yet acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to clearly and urgently reverse the pursuit of all nuclear weapons development or deployment and to refrain from any actions which could undermine regional and international peace and security and the efforts of the international community towards nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation;

Calls upon those States that have not yet done so to adhere unconditionally and without delay to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and to take all the necessary measures which flow from adherence to this instrument;

Calls upon those States that have not yet done so to conclude full-scope safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to conclude additional protocols to their safeguards agreements on the basis of the Model Protocol approved by the IAEA Board of Governors on 15 May 1997;

Calls upon those States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify, unconditionally and without delay, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and, pending the Treaty's entry into force, to observe a moratorium on nuclear tests;

Calls upon those States that have not yet done so to adhere to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and to work towards its further strengthening;

Calls upon the Conference on Disarmament (CD) to pursue its negotiations in the Ad hoc Committee established under Item 1 of its agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, taking into consideration both nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament objectives, and to conclude these negotiations without delay; and pending the entry into force of the treaty, *urges* all States to observe a moratorium on the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

Calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to establish an appropriate subsidiary body to deal with nuclear disarmament and, to that end, to pursue as a matter of priority its intensive consultations on appropriate methods and approaches with a view to reaching such a decision without delay;

Considers that an international conference on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, which would effectively complement efforts being undertaken in other settings, could facilitate the consolidation of a new agenda for a nuclear-weapon-free world;

Recalls the importance of the Decisions and Resolution adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, and *underlines* the importance of implementing fully the "Strengthening the Review Process for the Treaty" Decision;

Affirms that the development of verification arrangements will be necessary for the maintenance of a world free from nuclear weapons and requests the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), together with any other relevant international organizations and bodies, to explore the elements of such a system;

Calls for the conclusion of an internationally legally-binding instrument to effectively assure non-nuclear-weapon States Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

Stresses that the pursuit, extension and establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East and South Asia, represent a significant contribution to the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world;

Affirms that a nuclear-weapon-free world will ultimately require the underpinnings of a universal and multilaterally negotiated legally binding instrument or a framework encompassing a mutually reinforcing set of instruments;

Requests the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to compile a report on the implementation of this resolution;

Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World: The Need for a New Agenda", and to review the implementation of this resolution.